



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

70

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,092	05/25/2006	Steven F. Dowdy	034123-199	9450
41790	7590	11/17/2006	EXAMINER	
BUCHANAN, INGERSOLL & ROONEY LLP P.O. BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404			NOAKES, SUZANNE MARIE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1656	
DATE MAILED: 11/17/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/561,092

Applicant(s)

DOWDY ET AL.

Examiner

Suzanne M. Noakes, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1656

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-35 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 1656

DETAILED ACTION

1. The Art Unit location of your application in the USPTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Art Unit 1656.

Election/Restrictions

2. The restriction requirement made on 28 September 2006 is hereby withdrawn and vacated. The new restriction requirement is set forth below.

3. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-19 and 31- 35, drawn to a composition comprising two fusion polypeptides, the first having a transduction domain fused to a heterologous polypeptide, the second having a transduction domain fused to a fusogenic polypeptide, and kits and articles of manufacture thereof and just a fusion polypeptide comprising a protein transduction domain and a fusogenic domain.

Group II, claim(s) 20-30, drawn to a method of introducing a heterologous polypeptide in to a target cell by contacting the cell with a composition comprising two fusion polypeptides, the first having a transduction domain fused to a heterologous polypeptide, the second having a transduction domain fused to a fusogenic polypeptide.

Art Unit: 1656

4. The inventions listed as Groups I-II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: The claims are drawn to fusion polypeptides that have a transduction domain fused to fusogenic polypeptide wherein the preferred embodiments of a fusogenic polypeptide are described in dependent claims 13, 29 and 34; and the preferred embodiments for the transduction domain are sequences from TAT, VP22 or Antp. Barka et al. (J. of Histochem. & Cytochem., 2000, 48(11):1453-1460) teach a fusion polypeptide of TAT-HA- β -galactosidase, where Tat is the 11 amino acid leader sequence of amino acids 47-57, HA is hemagglutinin, and β -galactosidase is a marker protein. Since the claim limitation of claim 31 is open, the teaching of Barka et al. anticipate the claim.

Therefore, the technical feature linking the inventions of Groups I and II does not constitute a special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2, as it does not differentiate the claimed subject matter as a whole over the prior art. Since according to PCT Rule 13.2 the presence of such a common or corresponding special technical feature is an absolute prerequisite for unity to be established, and given that there does not appear to be any other technical feature common to the claimed subject matter as a whole which might be able to fulfill this role, the currently claimed subject matter lacks unity of invention according to PCT Rule 13.1.

5. This application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

The species are as follows:

- 1) The transduction moieties listed in claims 2, 22 and 32,
- 2) The heterologous proteins listed in claim 12,
- 3) The fusogenic proteins listed in claims 13, 29 and 34.

Applicant is required, in the reply to this action, to elect a single species for claims 2, 12, 13, 22, 29, 32 and 34 to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The reply must also identify the claims readable on the elected species, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered non-responsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

6. The claims are deemed to correspond to the species listed above in the following manner:

The claims are drawn to two types of fusion proteins: a) a fusion protein containing a (transduction domain)-(heterologous polypeptide) where the transduction domain can be any of three different sequences (claims 2, 22, 32) and the heterologous polypeptide can be any of 23 different viruses (claim 12); and b) fusion proteins containing a (transduction domain)-(fusogenic polypeptide) wherein the transduction domain can be

any of three different sequences (claims 2, 22 and 32) and the fusogenic polypeptides can be any of 15 different viruses.

The following claim(s) are generic: 1, 4-8, 11, 15-21, 24-26, 28 and 31.

7. The species listed above do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, the species lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons: each protein species has its own unique structure (primary, secondary, tertiary and quaternary) and its own unique function that makes each species distinct and independent.

8. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include (i) an election of a species or invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143) and (ii) identification of the claims encompassing the elected invention.

The election of an invention or species may be made with or without traverse. To reserve a right to petition, the election must be made with traverse. If the reply does not distinctly and specifically point out supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election shall be treated as an election without traverse.

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the inventions or species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the inventions or species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

Art Unit: 1656

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Suzanne M. Noakes, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-2924. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 7.00am to 3.30pm.

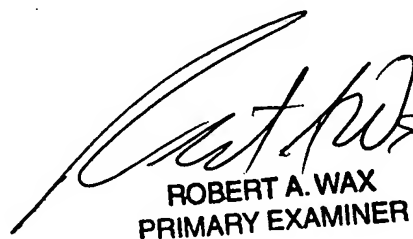
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kathleen Kerr can be reached on 571-272-0931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



SMN

02 November 2006



ROBERT A. WAX
PRIMARY EXAMINER